

The Pipeline

Vol. 1999, Number 25

July 16, 1999

Pruitt, Eldridge Named CFC Employees of the Month for June

By Margaret Davis Harney, CFC Communications

Jennifer Pruitt of the Department for Disability Determinations and **Shirley Eldridge** of CFC's policy development, have been named the Cabinet for Families and Children's Employees of the Month for June.



Jennifer Pruitt, left, is congratulated by Secretary Miller.

Jennifer Pruitt, a disability determiner, was nominated by Donna Saltzman to represent First City Complex.

"Jennifer's smile assures you of her kindness, caring attitude, patience, willingness to help and flexibility," Saltzman said. "She's the type of employee everyone would choose as a co-worker and friend."

Pruitt was also praised for her excellent organizational and communication skills, and her high standard of quality and quantity in her work performance. Her routinely high standards earned her a letter of recognition from her commissioner in May.

Pruitt is a resident of Lawrenceburg.



Shirley Eldridge, left, is congratulated by Secretary Miller.

Shirley Eldridge, who works in the Human Resources Building, was nominated by her co-workers for being extremely efficient and self-motivated, and her ability to keep the office running smoothly.

"Shirley is professional with any task she is given, and also makes the office a big happy family," co-workers wrote in her nomination.

Eldridge's career in state government began in 1990 in the Office of the Inspector General; from there she transferred to Child Support.

She lives in Lawrenceburg with her husband and two children.

CFC selects two outstanding employees each month for special recognition – one from staff working in the Human Resources Building and one from staff at First City Complex. Their peers, either co-workers or workers from another office or branch of CFC, nominate employees for the honor. A rotating panel selects the monthly winners from among nominations received by the 15th of the month. Nominations are not retained from one month to the next.

For more information, or to submit a nomination, contact Charlene Nation of the Employee Services Branch, CHR-5, phone 564-7770. She will also accept nominations representing First City Complex.



We will use this space to answer your general-interest questions about your office computer and other technology. Send questions via e-mail to CFCTechnoTalk@mail.state.ky.us

Y2K Summit: Prepare; Don't Panic

By Mary Gaetz, OTS Application Services Branch

You've heard about "Y2K" for months. The new year will present an unprecedented challenge to a world that depends more than ever on technology.

Public and private entities, including state government, have been scrambling to ensure that services are not interrupted when the last two numbers of the year roll from 99 to 00. Some fear that computer programs will interpret the double zeros as the year 1900 and fail to recognize bank account numbers, flight reservations, electric service accounts, and the like.

Such issues and more were addressed June 17 as more than 450 people attended a day-long Y2K Summit in Frankfort. The summit, first of its kind in the nation, was held in response to citizen requests for information about federal, state, and local government computer readiness in preparation for the Year 2000.

Convening the summit was Gov. Paul Patton's Chief Information Officer Aldona Valicenti. Valicenti reported that Kentucky has retrofitted 97 percent of the state's "mission-critical systems," meaning those systems that affect the life, health, and safety of the Commonwealth's citizens. And, Valicenti said, there will be teams working in all state agencies over the New Year's holiday to ensure that computer systems are up and running on the first workday of the new year.

Although Kentucky does not anticipate any major problems, Information Technology staff have met with officials of the Federal Emergency Management Administration (FEMA) and representatives of the National Guard to finalize contingency plans in case something does go wrong. Valicenti is advising citizens to prepare as if a winter storm were approaching by having a few days of non-perishable foods, stored water, and prescription medications on hand. And, as you would in preparation for a winter storm, keep your automobile gas tank above half-full.

Valicenti said her "biggest concern is the amount of misinformation about the Y2K conversion," and stressed that communities must tell their citizens about their progress in Y2K efforts.

The keynote speaker, John A. Koskinen, Assistant to the President and chairman of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, echoed Valicenti's concern when he said the "biggest risk is if people overreact to the problem," which could lead to spot shortages.

"No nuclear weapon anywhere in the world can be set off without human intervention," Koskinen said, so he is less worried about that issue. There is concern at the international level, however, that some countries have no plan at all, so federal officials are meeting with groups of countries to coordinate and plan for the Y2K conversion.

More than 94 percent of all federal mission-critical systems are now Y2K-compliant. "Financial institutions and telecommunications are in good shape, but there is some concern about shipping," Koskinen said.

Koskinen stressed the federal and state responsibility for providing information to the public and praised Kentucky as "a leader in Y2K and the summit as a role model for other states."

Speakers from utility companies, financial institutions, insurance companies, industry, agriculture, local government, education, law enforcement, social services, and healthcare gave brief overviews of their Y2K readiness and took questions from the audience. Most reiterated the summit's overall message: Don't Panic.

The worldwide cost estimates for becoming Y2K compliant range from \$300 to \$600 billion. Kentucky estimates statewide costs at \$34 to \$38 million.

KET broadcast the first of three key segments of the summit on "For the Record" at 12 a.m. EDT on July 11. The remaining two one-hour segments may be seen at the same time on July 18 and July 25. The network will also broadcast a one-hour program of summit highlights titled "CIOs' Year 2000 Summit" Aug. 9 at 9 p.m. EDT.

For more information about Y2K, check the state web site at <http://www.state.ky.us/year2000/index.htm>



Correction

The July 2 Pipeline incorrectly stated that the CFC online phone directory lists *all* central office employees of the Cabinet for Families and Children. The directory lists only *key contacts*.

You can access the directory from CFC's homepage, <http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/cfachome.htm>, or go directly to it at http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/CFC/phone_program/phone_program.html.

Any corrections or updates to the directory should be e-mailed to OTS at their service request site, listed in your e-mail global address book as CFC Service Request.

Retirements

Sandra Barrow, Pam Young and Sherry Guion are retiring from CFC's Permanency and Protection Office in Logan County. A reception will be held in their honor at the office, 343 W. Third St. in Russellville, **July 20**, 5-9 p.m.



Brenda Robinson of Public Health will be guest of honor at a retirement reception **July 23**, 2 – 4 p.m., in the CHS conference room. Call Judy Overstreet at 564-8948 or Regina Pickle at 564-8963 to donate towards the reception or gift.

Linda Hammond, Vicki Hardin, Debbie Harrod, Sally Jones, Dell Mefford and Martha Perry are all retiring from Child Support's Program Services Branch effective July 31. They will be honored at a reception **July 23**, 1-3 p.m., at First City Complex.

Ann Smith and Gerald Gilpin will also retire from Child Support.

Bill Durrett will retire July 30 from Public Health's Emergency Medical Service. A private reception is planned in his honor.

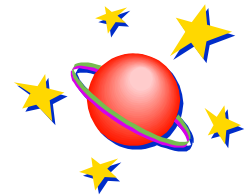
Doug Riddell, with 35 years service, and **Linda Thomas**, with 32 years service, are retiring from the Division of Mental Retardation. A reception will be held in their honor **July 23**, 2 - 4 p.m., in the 4th floor conference room at 100 Fair Oaks Lane.

Karen Asher, Betty Ann Bowles, Martha Jacquetta Bush, Lucy Crittenden, Anna Mayne, Rhenda Kaye Mills, Charlotte Million, Jacqueline Ryan, Barbara Sonnen and Barbara White are all retiring from CHS's Division of Epidemiology and Health Planning. All friends and co-workers are invited to a reception in their honor **July 27**, 1:50 – 4 p.m. in the boardroom of the Health Services Building. Anyone who would like to bring something to the reception or make a donation is asked to contact Kim McKinney by July 22.

Tillie Welker is retiring from CHS Program Support after 27 years of service. A retirement reception will be held at Fair Oaks **July 29**, 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., in Large Conference Room A on the 4th floor.

John Draper is retiring from the CHS Food Safety Branch after 31 years of service. A retirement reception will be held at the Frankfort Water Plant Club House on Louisville Road, **July 29**, 4 – 9 p.m. Friends and co-workers who wish to write a letter to John for inclusion in a Memory Book should forward the letter to: Anita Travis, Food Safety Branch, HS2E-C, 275 East Main Street, Frankfort KY 40621; FAX 502/564-6533; or via E-Mail at anita.travis@mail.state.ky.us.

No MARS Travel



The MARS Travel Program has hit some road construction delays, and employees should continue to use the old travel voucher form until further notice. Modifications to MARS Travel are now being completed.

Effective immediately, MARS Agency and Organization Codes should be used on all financial documents, including travel vouchers. Remember to obtain approval of the voucher before submitting it to Central Office for processing.

The vouchers will be processed in MARS, but in a different manner than originally anticipated, and reimbursement checks will be mailed directly from Treasury.



Look Who's Moved

Health Services' technology branch has moved to the 1st floor of the Human Resources Building, to mail stop code CHR LE-G. Their new phone number is (502) 564-7510, with the following extensions.

<u>Employees</u>	<u>Extension</u>
Riffe, Tom, manager	3360
Diebold, Sandra	3362
Smalley, Scott	3366
Schodorf, Sue	3475
Thurber, Don	3359
Tucker, Dave, contractor	3371
Vinegar, Tim, contractor	3349

Important Reminder:

Everyone is asked to exercise common courtesy and allow those not able to utilize the stairs, access to the elevators during emergency evacuations. This is a problem particularly for individuals with physical limitations. Please be kind and use the stairs whenever possible so that we all can evacuate the building as quickly and as safely as possible.



Helpful Web Sites

The Internet can provide valuable information that can help you work more efficiently. Here are just a few *Helpful Web Sites*. Remember to “bookmark” the ones you will want to refer to often.

MARS

<http://www.state.ky.us/agencies/adm/mars/mars.htm>: MARS Homepage; learn all about the MARS project

<http://adm.state.ky.us>: MARS Customer Service Resource Center’s site, including links to the Help Desk, or a form for submitting an online request for help. A link to the site is also on the MARS Homepage.

Employee Directories

http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/CFC/phone_program/phone_program.html: CFC central office phone directory of key contacts

<http://www.state.ky.us/directory/dirindex.htm>: an updated phone directory for all state government employees

General Information

<http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/cfachome.htm>: Cabinet for Families and Children homepage

<http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/chshome.htm>: Cabinet for Health Services homepage

<http://www.state.ky.us/>: state government homepage

<http://resourcedirectory.state.ky.us/>: a database of resources from childcare to zoos

News

http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/media_releases/media.htm: media releases from communications staff of CFC and CHS

<http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/pipeline/pipeline.htm>: current and past issues of *Pipeline*

<http://www.kentuckyconnect.com/heraldleader/> Lexington Herald-Leader

Just for Fun

<http://www.kystateparks.com/>: state parks homepage

Need computer training? If you didn’t receive a brochure from the Systems Training Branch, either in paper form or electronically, check out the STB web site at <http://www.state.ky.us/dis/stb/>.



Central Office Notes and Activities

- The next **Central Office VISION 2000** meeting is scheduled for **July 21** at 8:30 a.m. in the cafeteria. To place items on the agenda call Eric Barnes at 564-3440 before July 19.
- Linda Burke of CHS’ public health has established a **Fibromyalgia Support Group**, which meets at 7 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Highland Christian Church. For more information, call Linda Burke at 564-7213.
- The **aerobics program** meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call Beth Bates at 564-4150 for more information.
- Nominations for **CFC Employees of the Month** are due by the 15th of each month. For more information, or to submit a nomination, contact Charlene Nation of the Employee Services Branch, CHR-5, phone 564-7770. She will also accept nominations sent by e-mail.



Seeking Lobby Desk Volunteers

The information desk in the lobby of the Human Resources building serves as a critical entry point to our agencies. The Office of Communications would like to make sure someone is there during every workday. Any employee interested in filling in when our regular staff are unavailable should contact **Gil Lawson at 564-6786 ext. 3327**. Volunteers should check with their supervisor first. Shifts generally will be no more than a half-day. You must have good telephone skills and be familiar with state government offices and offices within the building.

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Boler at Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us